

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1.    A method comprising:  
2           at a device, opening a first connection to a server;  
3           establishing an information exchange protocol for  
4   communicating on the first connection;  
5           at a device, opening a second connection to the server;  
6           selecting an active connection from connections including  
7   the second connection; and  
8           communicating information configured for the information  
9   exchange protocol using the active connection.

1           2.    The method of claim 1 further comprising  
2   communicating information configured for the information  
3   exchange protocol using the first connection as the active  
4   connection prior to selecting the second connection as the  
5   active connection.

6           3.    The method of claim 1 in which the second connection  
7   is opened prior to establishing the information exchange  
8   protocol.

9           4.    The method of claim 1 in which a single one of the  
10   connections is selected as the active connection.

1           5.    The method of claim 1 in which two or more of the  
2   connections are selected as the active connection.

1        6. The method of claim 1 in which the second connection  
2 includes a wireless connection.

1        7. The method of claim 1 or 6 further comprising  
2 monitoring the connections for a parameter selected from  
3 the group consisting of signal strength, transmittal rate,  
4 latency, cost of transmittal, and connection integrity; and  
5 reselecting the active connection to optimize the  
6 parameter.

1        8. The method of claim 1 in which the information is  
2 communicated in packets that include aggregated information  
3 for more than one application.

1        9. The method of claim 1, 4, or 6 in which the  
2 information includes a command that is effected by a module on  
3 the server.

1        10. The method of claim 1 in which the information  
2 comprises an aggregation of information from applications, the  
3 extent of aggregation for each application being dependent on  
4 an indicator of priority for information exchange associated  
5 with each application.

1        11. The method of claim 9 in which the command causes  
2 the server to contact a remote system, receive a reply from  
3 the remote system, and effect a response without transmitting  
4 the reply to the device.

1        12. A method comprising:  
2        at a server, accepting connections from a device for  
3        communicating information configured by an information  
4        exchange protocol;  
5        detecting or selecting one or more of the connections of  
6        as an active connection; and  
7        communicating information configured by the information  
8        exchange protocol using the active connection.

1        13. The method of claim 12 in which a single one of the  
2        connections is selected as the active connection.

1        14. The method of claim 12 in which the information is  
2        communicated in packets, each of at least some of the packets  
3        includes aggregated information for different applications on  
4        the device.

1        15. The method of claim 12 in which the information  
2        includes a command for a module.

1        16. The method of claim 15 further comprising effecting  
2        the command.

1        17. The method of claim 16 in which the module effects  
2        the command by contacting a remote server, receiving a reply  
3        from the remote server and effecting a response without  
4        transmitting the reply to the device.

1        18. The method of claim 12, 13, or 17 in which the  
2 information is an aggregation of information for applications,  
3 the extent of aggregation for each application being dependent  
4 on an indicator of priority for information exchange  
5 associated with each application.

1        19. An apparatus comprising a processor and software  
2 configured to cause the processor to:  
3        open a first connection to a server;  
4        establish an information exchange protocol;  
5        open a second connection to a server;  
6        select an active connection from connections including  
7 the second connection; and  
8        communicate information configured for the information  
9 exchange protocol using the active connection.

1        20. The apparatus of claim 19 in which the processor is  
2 further configured to monitor the connections for a parameter  
3 selected from the group consisting of signal strength,  
4 transmittal rate, latency, cost of transmittal, and connection  
5 integrity; and  
6        reselect the active connection to optimize the parameter.

1        21. The apparatus of claim 19 in which the information  
2 is communicated in packets, each of at least some of the  
3 packets includes aggregated information for different local  
4 applications.

1        22. The apparatus of claim 19 in which the information  
2 includes commands that are effected by a module on the server.

1        23. An article comprising a machine-readable medium that  
2 stores machine-executable instructions, the instructions  
3 causing a machine to:

4        open a first connection to a server;  
5        establish an information exchange protocol;  
6        open a second connection to a server;  
7        select an active connection from the connections; and  
8        communicate information configured for the information  
9 exchange protocol using the active connection.

1        24. The article of claim 23 in which a single one of the  
2 connections is selected as the active connection.

1        25. The article of claim 23 in which the instructions  
2 further cause the machine to monitor the connections for a  
3 parameter selected from the group consisting of signal  
4 strength, transmittal rate, latency, cost of transmittal, and  
5 connection integrity; and  
6        reselect the active connection to optimize the parameter.

1        26. The article of claim 23 in which the information is  
2 communicated in packets, each of at least some of the packets  
3 includes aggregated information for different local  
4 applications.

1        27. The article of claim 23 in which the information  
2 includes commands that are effected by a module on the server.

1        28. A system comprising:

2        a device, a server, and communication links, in which the  
3 device is configured to:

4        open a first connection to the server using one of the  
5 communication links;

6        establish an information exchange protocol;

7        open a second connection to the server using another of  
8 the communication links;

9        select an active connection from connections including  
10 the second connection;

11       communicate information configured for the information  
12 exchange protocol using the active connection.

1        29. The system of claim 28 in which at least one of the  
2 communication links includes a wireless communication link.

1        30. The system of claim 28 or 29 in which the device is  
2 further configured to monitor the connections for a parameter  
3 selected from the group consisting of signal strength,  
4 transmittal rate, latency, cost of transmittal, and connection  
5 integrity; and

6        reselect the active connection to optimize the parameter.